

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OPIC-03 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 ACDA-05 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3503

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION NATO

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL

SUMMARY: ANOTHER GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION MAY BE IN STORE. STRUCTURE BEING CONSIDERED WOULD HAVE 11-MEMBER DIRECTORATE AT TOP; EXECUTIVE COLLEGIUM CONSISTING OF OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, COSTA GOMES AND VASCO GONCALVES; AND TWO VICE PRIME MINISTERS SERVING AS LINKS WITH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. FOUR LEFT-WING SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS, WHO MAY BE PCP PLANTS, HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO SERVE IN NEW GOVERNMENT BEING FORMED BY PRIME MINISTER. ONE PPD MILITANT WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN WEEKEND VIOLENCE IN MONCHIQUE IN ALGARVE. END SUMMARY

1. GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION: ACCORDING TO SEVERAL
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SOURCES, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER, A GOVERNMENT

REORGANIZATION IS BEING CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF CURRENT CRISIS. AT TOP OF NEW STRUCTURE WOULD BE 11-MEMBER DIRECTORATE DRAWN FROM REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL BUT NOT NECESSARILY SAME INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DIRECTORATE WOULD BE SERVED BY THREE-MAN EXECUTIVE COLLEGIUM COMPOSED OF GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, VASCO GONCALVES, AND COSTA GOMES, WHO WOULD RETAIN TITLE OF PRESIDENT. COLLEGIUM WOULD BE ASSISTED BY TWO VICE PRIME MINISTERS -- ONE A CIVILIAN, POSSIBLY TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO, AND THE OTHER AN UNNAMED MILITARY MAN, POSSIBLY VASCO LOURENCO. THE TWO VICE PRIME MINISTERS WOULD BE CHARGED WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING OPERATIONS OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. RC WOULD BE REDUCED TO PRO FORMA ROLE LINKED TO THE DIRECTORATE.

2. LEFT-WING "SOCIALISTS" MAY JOIN GOVERNMENT: WE UNDERSTAND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME LEFT OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS), INCLUDING ONE DEPUTY, HAVE AGREED TO JOIN NEW GOVERNMENT BEING FORMED BY PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES.

3. VIOLENCE IN ALGARVE: PPD SOURCES TOLD US THAT IN WEEKEND INCIDENT IN MONCHIQUE, ONE PPD MEMBER WAS KILLED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANT AND SIX PARTY MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED. INCIDENT WENT UNREPORTED IN LISBON MEDIA.

4. AFM ARMY ASSEMBLY WILL MEET: AFM ARMY ASSEMBLY WILL MEET JULY 24 TO PREPARE FOR PARTICIPATION IN AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 26.

5. COMMENT: NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE BEING CONSIDERED HAS EARMARKS OF "PORTUGUESE SOLUTION", EASING CURRENT PRESSURES BUT FAILING TO DEAL WITH UNDERLYING ISSUES. DEPENDING UPON COMPOSITION OF 11-MEMBER DIRECTORATE, SOME SUCH FORMULA MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY ACCEPTABLE TO INDECISIVE RC MAJORITY.

6. PROFESSOR JOSE JOAQUIM TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO, INDIVIDUAL REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR ONE OF VICE PRIME MINISTER POSITIONS, IS RESPECTED FORMER RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA AND FORMER MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE. HE IS NATIVE OF NORTH OF COUNTRY AND IS WELL THOUGHT OF IN PPD CIRCLES
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THERE. HE HAS REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY AND HONESTY. HIS AGREEMENT TO SERVE WOULD MAKE NEW ORGANIZATION MORE ATTRACTIVE, AT LEAST TO PPD.

7. FOUR "SOCIALISTS" PREPARED TO JOIN GOVERNMENT MAY IN REALITY BE PCP "SUBMARINES" PLANTED EARLIER IN RANKS OF PS FOR JUST SUCH PURPOSES. PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAD TO THEIR PROMPT EXPULSION FROM PS. NEVERTHELESS,

PRESENCE OF "SOCIALISTS" IN GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SPECIOUS
LEGITIMACY TO CLAIMS THAT NEW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTED VARIOUS
SOCIALIST POLITICAL CURRENTS.
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